

country be prohibited for the duration of the war and for at least one year thereafter." These resolutions are examples of many and illustrate the present trend of medical and scientific opinion based on the present conception of the action of alcohol, and of the relation of alcohol to the conduct of war.

THE MEDICAL DEFENSE RULES.

The Secretary's office has mailed to each member of the Society a printed copy of the MEDICAL DEFENSE RULES. Members have been requested to familiarize themselves with the Rules, and we wish to impress again upon the members how much it is to their interest to do so.

The compilation and restatement of our MEDICAL DEFENSE RULES and putting them in the hands of every member is one of the most important steps taken by the Council for the welfare of the entire Society. While the general tenor of some of the Rules has been known to nearly all of our members, the exact text has never been carefully and accurately stated and placed directly in the hands of each member. Heretofore, discussion has been had in sporadic cases as to the application of a given rule, which would have been avoided had members been given an opportunity to familiarize themselves with these provisions. It is earnestly suggested to our members that strict compliance with the rules will do much for the benefit of the Society; and in a particular case it may be vital to the individual's interest.

We have already taken occasion to comment in these columns upon the rule regarding election between defense by an insurance company (if a member is insured), and defense by the Society. We again repeat that this rule was adopted and has been kept in force solely because the funds are not available to afford defense by the Society in every case. Therefore, the Council felt that in requiring members to make such election the greatest good was given to the greatest number. We trust, that as our organization grows, it will be possible to revoke this rule.

We have also, from time to time, heard and participated in discussions concerning the so-called X-ray rule. Members seem to be more or less apprehensive that this rule will deprive them of defense by the Society in cases arising out of treatment of injury to bone or joint. The rule has no such effect. It expressly provides that the discretion of the Council should be exercised in every case where any reasonable grounds exist for excuse of failure to take X-ray plates. The Council uniformly exercises a sane and common sense judgment and excuses such omission. Of course, every case must depend upon itself; and a member cannot expect such favorable ruling if he recklessly and intentionally failed to exercise reasonable and ordinary precaution.

May we ask the members in considering the Rules to remember that they represent the com-

bined judgment of men, most of whom have been at the head of the Society's affairs for many years, and who have had the benefit of all the precedence available, to-wit: eight years of experience throughout the life of our Legal Department.

MEDICAL WOMEN AND THE WAR.

Medical women have organized in various parts of the country for the purpose of offering their services to their country in the present emergency. Unfortunately no means has as yet been devised whereby the government or any of its allied bodies can take advantage of these offers, because there is no recognition of physicians of the female sex in either the Army or the Navy. This, of course, prevents the Red Cross from using these women to the full in capacities where they might excel because they are unable to join the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army or Navy. This is exactly as it was in England at the outbreak of the war three years ago. The English medical women, in spite of the inability immediately to get recognition, were able, because of the pressing need, to establish hospitals in France and so to demonstrate their ability to be of real and valuable service to the cause for which their men were giving their lives. After that they were enrolled definitely as a part of the medical staff of the army and were given the rank to which their positions entitled them.

We know of one woman (not a physician) who served in France as a Nurse's Aid with the rank of Corporal, and of another who was Matron in a base-hospital with the rank of Colonel in the British Army. We understand that the pay of these women is not quite that of men of the same rank, but cannot state this authoritatively.

We know that in this country women physicians have been asked by representatives of the Red Cross to organize groups to aid, without pay or rank, in the rehabilitation work in France. This we feel to be inconsistent. If the Government, or the Red Cross, does not wish the services of women for any particular reason, well and good, but if these services are to be used, there should be no distinction. *She* is just as much a surgeon when in the operating-room as is *he*. Why should John Smith, M. D., an anesthetist, be a Second Lieutenant, and Mary Brown, M. D., an anesthetist, be a Nurse's Aid without authority?

REGISTRATION FEES.

Every licentiate has received a slip announcing that a registration fee of two dollars per annum has been imposed upon them by the legislature at the recent session. While this is presumably a "registration fee," it is really a tax for raising funds for the prosecution of violators of the Medical Practice act. The Board of Medical Examiners have not been able, with the funds accruing from the fines of convicted miscreants, to pursue a sufficiently vigorous campaign of elimination of